(*d*) No. The disposal of timber and the price to be realised therefor depend always on the condition of the timber market and on the quality of the timber.

(*e*) Yes. The member is referred to the portion of the proceedings of the last budget session of the Council relating to the voting of grants for the Forest Department.

Funds for Roads in Shertallai.

222. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state what portion of the budgeted amount for this year has been spent till the 15th Dhanu, 1099, on (1) the Shertallai town roads, and (2) the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) Rs. 1,000.

(2) Rs. 718, excluding Rs. 1,500, being the value of iron materials received for the bridge work.

Trained Teachers in the Shertallai English High School.

223. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): (*a*) How many trained graduates are there in the departmental English High School at Shertallai?

(*b*) How many trained graduates are there in each of the other departmental English High Schools of the State?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any special reason for not making an equal distribution of trained graduates among the various departmental English High Schools?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Excluding the Headmaster, there are two trained graduates.

(*b*) A statement* giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(*c*) The number of trained graduates in any school cannot be a matter of mere ratio, since the nature of the optional subjects, the number of pupils going in for each of the optionals, the total strength, etc., have to be taken into consideration in the matter of distribution of the staff. Government will, however, instruct the Director of Public Instruction to add, as soon as possible, to the number of trained graduate teachers in the schools in which they are at present poorly represented.

Opening of Periyar Dam Sluices.

224. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the opening of the sluices of the Periyar Dam during the north-east monsoon this year caused a good deal of damage to crops and vegetation in the lower reaches of the Periyar?

(*b*) Will the Government take effective steps to prevent the sudden rise of water in the lower reaches of the Periyar on account of the opening of the Periyar Dam sluices?

* *Vide* appendix—page 847.

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[Mr. C. P Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The matter is under correspondence with the Madras Government.

Improvement of Means of Communication in Northern Taluks.

225. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that facilities of communication in the amalgamated taluks of Alangad and Parur are extremely scanty; and

(*b*) whether they will direct the Public Works Department to see that greater facilities for communication are provided in their programme of work this year in the Alwaye Division?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are doing the needful. An additional grant of Rs. 12,250 has already been sanctioned for works in the Alwaye Division during 1099 (*vide* page 469 of the Official Report of the Legislative Council Proceedings, First Session, 1099—Vol. IV.—No. 6).

Timber Sales.

226. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of timber available at present for sale in the several Government depôts;

(*b*) the results of the efforts put forth by the Special Utilisation Officer deputed to find markets for the timber and other forest produce of the State;

(*c*) whether timber is sold to the contractors engaged by the Government to construct buildings, etc.; and

(*d*) whether it is not possible to compel all such contractors to purchase timber from the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Royalties 1,94,592 c. ft.
Junglewood 1,26,880 c. ft.

(*b*) Owing to extreme dullness in the timber market, the efforts of the Utilisation Officer to find out markets for timber outside the State have not so far proved satisfactory.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Such an order was passed in April 1921. The Chief Engineer has moved for the abrogation of this order. The matter is under examination by the Government.

Recruitment to the Superior Grade.

227. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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